



**Austin-San Antonio
Corridor Council**

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Monday Morning Report – June 7, 2010

Internal

The Texas Greenbelt Coalition's quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, June 17 in **New Braunfels** from 1:30-3:30 pm. RSVP to TGBCinfo@thecorridor.org. ***Details.***

The Corridor Council's Economic Development Committee will meet Wednesday, June 23 at **Kyle City Hall** from 9:30 – 11:30 am. Please RSVP to council@thecorridor.org. ***Agenda.***

Welcome to our newest member, **KGBTexas, Inc.** With over 30 public relations and advertising professionals with offices in San Antonio and Houston, KGB offers a diverse range of services including media relations, online advertising, search engine marketing, print and broadcast production, research, brand marketing strategies and media planning.

Infrastructure

The **Lone Star Rail District's** Board of Directors met last week (6/4) in **San Marcos** to get updates on environmental clearances and Union Pacific negotiations, approve the hiring of a rail operations manager, and approve additional engineering work. For details, email council@thecorridor.org.

Senator Jeff Wentworth and State Rep. Ruth McClendon will host a '*Transportation Summit*' in **San Antonio** today (6/7) at Sunset Station, 12:30- 3:00 preceded by a working luncheon, to discuss legislative issues expected in the upcoming 2011 session. Various state and local officials, including Corridor Council staff, will participate. Summit Announcement ***here.***

According to the US Department of Transportation, trade using surface transportation between the US and NAFTA partners Canada and Mexico was 37% higher in March 2010 than in March 2009, reaching \$69.9 billion. Of this amount, 86.9% moved by land. ***Details.***

Faced with US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood's comment that "This administration is not in the mood to raise taxes in this economy for increased transportation spending," the **Mariposa County** Association of Governments in Arizona has proposed a new partnership in which large metropolitan areas that tax themselves to improve the national transportation system would receive new incentives, new flexibility, and streamlined help from Washington. Interesting new idea ***here*** concept paper.

One week from today, on June 14, production will get underway at Texas Power Systems, the new plant on **Seguin's** west side where more than 300 workers are learning to assemble Caterpillar diesel engines. The 175-acre site will eventually employ 1500 workers by 2012. ***Story.***

"Riverbank homeowners are sick and tired of the drunks who float the Guadalupe and Comal rivers, and many of the rest of us are sick of hearing them complain." *Wow.* So writes **New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung** publisher Doug Toney in proposing a solution to the persistent problem ***here.***

Economic Development (and ‘Other News’)

The US economy showed continued progress in April with a burst in construction spending and the 10th straight month of manufacturing expansion. Job growth in the private sector remains slow, however, riling the stock markets. [Details](#).

The **San Antonio** delegation visiting the **Shanghai** World Expo continued last week to generate economic interest in Central and South Texas. Mayor Julian Castro signed Friendship City Agreements with the cities of **Suzhou** and **Wuxi**, and officials hope to build working relationships with these two Chinese cities in the cultural, educational, research and commercial sectors. [Details](#).

The US Patent and Trademark Office is expanding a pilot program for fast-tracking certain ‘clean energy’ technology patent applications. The pilot program, instituted in 12/09 to prioritize the first 3,000 patent applications meeting certain criteria, offers quicker approvals. [Article](#). [USPTO Notice](#).

AAA Texas surveyed about 2,300 travelers throughout the state and found **San Antonio** is expected to be the top summer destination for Texas travelers, followed by **Austin**. [Story](#).

Kiplinger’s Personal Finance newsletter named **Austin** as its “*Best City for the Next Decade*.” Kiplinger’s looked for livability and a good business environment for entrepreneurs and job seekers, citing **Austin** as a breeding ground for start-ups. [Details](#).

Farmers markets continue to grow and expand throughout The Corridor: The *Community Impact Newspaper* reports that there are 20 farmers markets in the **Austin** vicinity alone. Recently new markets opened in **Cedar Park** and **Sunset Valley**. [Details](#).

CPS Energy will be offering rebates to customers who recycle old refrigerators and freezers. CPS customers can receive a \$35 credit when they turn in working, older, less efficient models and \$100 if they turn around and buy and Energy Star-rated replacement. [Details](#).

Even though this news is from frozen north, the Bank of Canada’s recent decision to a small increase in its benchmark interest rate is further indication of economic improvement. [Details](#).

Thought for the week:

“Horse sense is the thing a horse has which keeps it from betting on people.”

- W.C. Fields 1880-1946